

Meeting Notes

Eastern HS Programs Advisory Team
March 31, 2009
6-7:30pm
Eastern High School
Facilitator:
Justin Cohen, Office of Portfolio Management
Charity Fesler, Office of Portfolio Management

Overview:

Following up on questions about various high schools academic structures of interest, this meeting explored a sample of four structures/ types of high schools. While considering the specifics of the four structures, community members also more broadly discussed elements of each structure that were appealing or that raised concerns. The four HS structures discussed were: Early College High Schools, International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, the Boston Latin School model*, and the Small Schools approach. *No specific notes are included below on the Boston Latin model due to lack of interest from the community.

Notes:

Issue	Comments
Early College HS	<p>What is appealing/ a priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Students can focus on college preparation</i>▪ <i>Exposure to college life, skills</i> <p>What is interesting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Students able to shape individual programs▪ College cost-savings <p>Concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Model may not be a good fit for 1200 students (usu. much smaller)
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme	<p>What is appealing/ a priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Liberal arts education</i>▪ <i>Academic rigor</i>▪ <i>Exposes students to the world</i>▪ Global standards around quality of education <p>Concerns:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pre-IB preparation? ▪ Available to all students?
Small Schools/ Small Learning Communities	<p>What is appealing/ a priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Offers post-graduation options (i.e. college, work)</i> ▪ <i>Provides a family-like support group</i> ▪ <i>Provides opportunity for teachers to know individual students well over multiple years.</i> ▪ Allows for more intimate feel to comprehensive high school ▪ Is working elsewhere in the country <p>Concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Isolates students from larger high school context? ▪ Potential for one community to become “the rigorous one” instead of focus on rigor throughout all communities ▪ Option to cross-register classes from other communities?